

THE Rothmans Isthmian League title race, which has been simmering all season, comes to an exciting climax tomorrow (Saturday) when either Enfield or Wycombe Wanderers can emerge as champions.

Everything rests on tomorrow's fixtures with the Blues meeting Dulwich Hamlet at Loakes Park and Enfield going to Wexham Park where they face Wycombe's local rivals Slough Town.

Wanderers can clinch the title if they beat Dulwich and Enfield either lose of draw at Slough. If both Wycombe and Enfield drop points, then Dagenham could come with a late run to pip the pair of them.

There is a definite tendency to write off Dulwich as a home 'banker' for the Blues and concentrate on the battle at Wexham Park. But the Londoners are themselves involved in a major battle to avoid relegation.

Dulwich must win at Loakes Park to stand a chance of avoiding the drop to Division Two at the expense of either Hayes or Bishop's Stort-

ford. If they lose they are certain to join Ilford in the second division next season. Their recent form suggests they will prove a real handful for Wanderers, so much so that manager John Reardon took time off to watch them on Tuesday in the league when they beat Croydon 3-1 at Champion Hill.

John was highly impressed with them, too. "Dulwich produced the highest work rate I have seen from a side this season. It will be a joke if they go down when you compare them with some of the sides in the league. I went to watch them because their results warranted a closer look and I was very impressed," said the manager.

Since Jimmy Langley took over as manager, Dulwich have made a tremendous effort to avoid the drop and Langley has brought about the improvement with almost exactly the same players that struggled earlier in the season.

Dulwich have lost only one of their last eight league games and that run includes victories at Hendon 1-0, and against Bishops Stortford 5-1 and 2-1,

Hitchin 4-2 and on Tuesday Croydon 3-1.

Although Wanderers' recent form is also impressive, there is some danger that they may take Dulwich lightly. But manager Reardon is determined to ensure there is no over-confidence tomorrow.

If the Blues produce another Tooting performance they should prove too strong for Dulwich, who will need to watch 41 goal Ian Pearson, Wycombe's trump card this season.

Inevitably there will be constant interest on Slough's progress against the current leaders and champions Enfield. The Rebels have proved themselves a fine side this season, reaching the F.A. Trophy semi-final, and holding down a good position in the league. Recently, however, they have been playing a lot of matches, including three this week.

AT ARSENAL

Injuries have robbed them of former Wanderer Alan Gane but they have Dennis Malley back in the side. For tomorrow's game winger Dave Russell, whose rise to fame from local football with Flackwell Heath last season has been remarkable. Russell misses the Enfield game as he is on a month's trial at Arsenal. Roy Davies may also be out as

he could be playing for the Gunners' Reserve team.

One man who will be doing his utmost to overcome Enfield, however, is Terry Reardon. Terry is the brother of Wycombe manager John and spent several seasons as a Wycombe player before switching to Slough this season. Says John: "There's no doubt Terry will be doing his best for us. He will pull out all the stops himself and he'll be hoping to motivate the rest of the Slough team."

Enfield are likely to field the side that struggled to beat Sutton 1-0 at home last week, which means they are without Brian Wilson, their centre half, who is injured. Keith Searle, former Wycombe centre forward, leads their attack.

The champions are reported to be quietly confident of winning at Slough. They know it is up to them and they no longer have to worry about other clubs. Although they will probably require three points, they are unlikely to change their tactics and will play it tight as always.

Victory for Wanderers and an Enfield defeat would earn the Blues their fifth Isthmian title in seven years but even if the results don't go their way tomorrow, they must be satisfied to know that they have done remarkably well to take a place in the top three of Division One.

LATEST TABLE

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
(Up to and inc. 3/5/77)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pen
								Pts
Enfield	41	23	12	6	60	33	81	6 4
Wycombe Wanderers	41	24	8	9	68	33	80	1 0
Dagenham	40	22	10	8	74	35	76	3 0
Tilbury	40	17	13	10	55	48	64	9 4
Hendon	40	18	9	13	57	47	63	5 0
Hitchin Town	39	19	5	13	58	62	62	3 0
Tooting and Mitch	40	17	10	13	61	66	61	10 4
Leatherhead	41	18	7	16	61	48	61	4 0
Slough Town	37	18	6	13	49	41	60	1 0
Walthamstow Avenue	40	18	6	16	60	55	60	9 0
Leytonstone	42	16	11	15	59	57	59	8 8
Staines Town	38	15	11	12	49	44	56	3 0
Barking	41	16	8	17	62	60	56	4 0
Southall	41	14	8	19	51	64	50	13 4
Sutton United	41	14	7	20	40	54	49	2 0
Croydon	41	13	9	19	36	50	48	3 0
Kingstonian	42	13	7	22	45	60	46	10 0
Woking	41	11	11	19	46	60	44	7 4
Bishops Stortford	40	11	9	20	48	68	42	1 4
Hayes	40	11	9	20	46	68	42	1 4
Dulwich Hamlet	41	11	6	22	51	69	41	2 4
Ilford	42	10	8	24	32	73	38	14 4



STUART EARP

Big match reports

WYCOMBE Wanderers followers will have comprehensive coverage of tomorrow's big two games in the Rothmans Isthmian League.

STUART EARP will be reporting on Wycombe's last game of the season at home to Dulwich Hamlet.

MICHAEL KNOX will be at Wexham Park to see if Slough Town can overcome Division One leaders Enfield.

For full reports of both games and pictures of the Wanderers clash make sure of your copy of 'Midweek' — out on Tuesday.



MICHAEL KNOX